

We Are Strengthening the Justice.



EEA and Norway Grants
in the Czech Republic

Programme CZ15
Cooperation in Justice

Iceland
Liechtenstein Norway
Norway grants grants



Ministry of Finance
of the Czech Republic

Ministerstvo spravedlnosti
České republiky



EEA and Norway Grants 2009–2014

3 donor states

16 beneficiary states

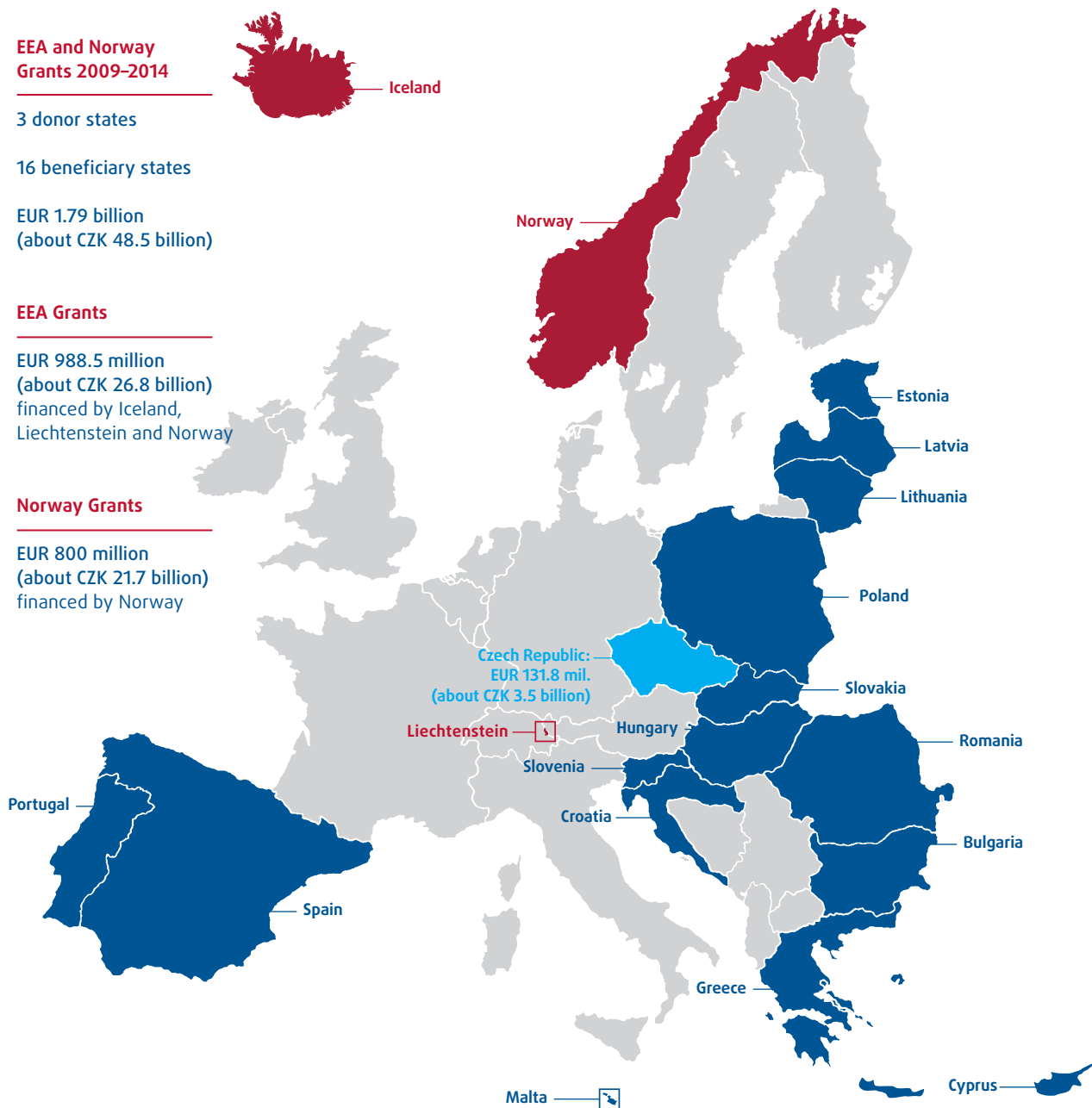
EUR 1.79 billion
(about CZK 48.5 billion)

EEA Grants

EUR 988.5 million
(about CZK 26.8 billion)
financed by Iceland,
Liechtenstein and Norway

Norway Grants

EUR 800 million
(about CZK 21.7 billion)
financed by Norway



The EEA and Norway Grants are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthening bilateral relations with **16 beneficiary countries** in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. The EEA and Norway Grants number among to the sources of funding that emphasise sharing and exchange of experience between and among partners.

In the 2009–2014 programming period the Czech Republic distributed approximately **EUR 131,8 million** into various areas. The justice is one of the areas.

About the Programme

A modern, two-story building with grey and red accents, situated in a grassy area with a fence and trees in the background. The building has a flat roof and several windows. The red accents are vertical panels on the facade. The building is surrounded by a grassy area and a fence. In the background, there are trees and a hillside under a cloudy sky.

Current topics that stir the society and need to be addressed include overcrowded prisons, juvenile delinquents, post-penitentiary care, the lack of trained employees, the streamlining of the judicial system and many more. The “Cooperation in Judiciary” programme dealt with overcoming these problems; inter alia, it placed emphasis even on a closer cooperation among important actors in the judiciary and on improving the correctional service systems in compliance with international standards.



New centre of theoretical and practical training in Nové Sedlo Prison.
Photo credit: Michal Ureš

The Programme in Numbers:

CZK 115,5

million distributed to pre-defined projects

7

pre-defined projects

10

bilateral activities with partners from Norway in total amount of approved grant at nearly 4,5 million EUR

Final exams of the course Maintenance of public greenery were organized in the Chaple in Nové Sedlo Prison.
Photo credit: Michal Ureš

Programme

CZ15 – Cooperation in Justice

Programme Areas

Judicial Capacity-building
Cooperation

Correctional Services
including Non-custodial
Sanctions

Eligible applicants

Ministry of Justice

Probation and Mediation
Service

Prison Service

Duration

Projects were implemented
in the period 2014–2017.

Programme CZ15 “Cooperation in Justice” was primarily focused on capacity expansions and on a deeper cooperation in the judiciary. Its priority was a fairer and more effective judicial system, which was also supported by an improved correctional service system. The programme was focused on two programme areas: Building the capacities and cooperation in the judiciary, and Correctional services including alternative sentences.

Programme CZ15, supported by the Norway grants, allocated more than **CZK 115 million** in these areas to **7 pre-defined projects**, which were focused on three main areas of the judiciary: judicial system (courts and state prosecutor’s offices), Probation and Mediation Service, and Prison Service. The programme clearly helped improve the effectiveness of the judicial system, and increased the staff competences within the Mediation Service and Prison Service. One of the greatest problems of the Czech penitentiary system is overcrowding, which the programme strove to address partly at selected prisons through the construction of new buildings or at least the reconstruction of the existing ones. In its projects, the programme did not even forget about vulnerable groups of prisoners and improving their skills in order to increase their chances of finding a job after they return to the society. Certain projects also involved partner institutions from Norway, such as the *Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services* and non-profit organisation *Alternative to Violence (Alternativ til Vold)*.

Moreover, **10 additional bilateral initiatives for more than CZK 4.5 million** were carried out with partners from Norway as part of the programme. These mostly covered Norwegian prisons, to which study visits of representatives from the Czech Republic were organised with the aim of increasing their awareness and specialised knowledge of the practical functioning of the Norwegian penitentiary system.

Supported projects 2014-2017





Production and Education Hall in Příbram
Prison. Photo credit: Michal Ureš

The Project in Numbers:

164 videoconference sets at 141 locations

1,261 trained persons

141 administrator trainings

78 user trainings

5,899 videoconference connections made until June 2017

CZK 1,14 mil. saving regarding escorts of persons during testing and trial operation (Sep 2016 – Apr 2017)

Videoconference set placed in one of the Czech prisons. Photo credit: Michal Ureš

Implementing video-conferencing in the resort of Justice

Project promoter
Ministry of Justice

The primary objective of the project was a successful introduction of videoconferences into the judiciary. This modern way of multimedia communication allows audio, video and data to be transmitted between two or more entities in real time.

Within the project, the videoconference sets, central hardware elements and recording devices were bought. This technology allows recording and saving videoconference calls. An important activity of the project was also the training of future users, who sometimes accept new technologies negatively.

Cooperation between the Police of the Czech Republic and selected psychiatric hospitals, which also use videoconference sets in their activities, was established during the implementation of the project. On the basis of this cooperation, the possibility of interconnection with videoconferencing sets of other entities was ensured, unlike to the original project intent which only focused on interconnection within the justice sector.

The key benefits using the videoconference sets include saved time and money and, in particular, higher security. The use of this way of communication can significantly reduce the financial costs of transporting the persons who are serving their prison sentences or are placed in remand centres, and it also reduces the costs of witnesses and experts. Reducing the number of escorts causes not only financial savings, but also reduces the security risks connected with each escort.

At the closing conference regarding the project, Supreme Public Prosecutor Pavel Zeman cited the following in his presentation about historical milestones in the information technology development: **“Since 2003, when a videoconference was used in a Czech courtroom for the first time, we have made significant progress. The way of such communication is flexible and efficient, because it requires proper guidance; as a result, participants speak more concisely and more accurately.”**

Project website:

<http://www.justice.cz/Justice2/ms/ms.aspx?o=23&j=33&k=5893&d=340661>

The Project in Numbers:

5 supported specialisations

40 types of educational modules carried out during the project

113 training sessions

1,948 trained persons as part of further education system

93 involved trainers

6 bilateral activities

55 employees from the Czech Republic visited Norway

22 employees of Norwegian partner visited the Czech Republic

37 trained trainers as part of supervision

43 training manuals

One of the courses organized for employees of the Probation and Mediation Service.
Photo credit: Archive PMS CR

System of Further Education of Employees of the Probation and Mediation Service

Project promoter

Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic

Partner

Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services

Carried out with the partner, the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services, the project aimed to contribute to improving and streamlining the judiciary activities, in particular by strengthening the professional level of specialised activities of officials and assistants of the Probation and Mediation Service (hereinafter the PMS).

The project was primarily focused on educating the probation officers and assistants and on their development in five specialisations: community service, probation, parole, work with the youth, conflict resolution mediation.

The project participants appreciated the options of bilateral cooperation with the Norwegians – study visits to Norway and, in particular, a workshop focused on foreign experience in electronic monitoring and probation. By contrast, the practice of so-called restorative programmes in the Czech Republic, in particular with the victim-offender mediation, was presented to the foreign colleagues.

The project made it possible to carry out a pilot implementation of the Further Education System, required as part of the PMS since 2008. The system is a voluntary 'extension' of the education that is required as mandatory by the Act on PMS. It allowed for a qualitative shift in the work of specialists and helped improve the PMS activities.

Internal trainers were provided with intensive supervision support, with the supervisor, Mgr. Helena Bezděková, having said the following at the final conference: **“Our meetings have given rise to a number of suggestions to improve the education system of your employees; your people have great self-reflection ability and great communication skills, are motivated and loyal. You have very good employees. This is a rarity that should be maintained.”**

Project website:

<https://www.pmscr.cz/system-dalsiho-vzdelavani-pracovniku/>

The Project in Numbers:

747 trained employees as part of thematic trainings about intervention programmes and specialised education courses

59 employees trained to deal with a specific group of foreigners at prisons

3 new intervention programmes

7 prisons into which new programmes were introduced

4 prisons in which existing programmes were expanded

328 consultations provided to imprisoned foreigners at 19 prisons

2 materials created for foreigners

16 language versions into which the materials were translated

Seminar Working with violent offenders was organized in cooperation with the norwegian partner Alternativ til Vold. Photo credit: Archive General Directorate of the Prison Service.

The Project for Vulnerable Groups and Education of the Employees of the Prison Service

Project promoter
Prison Service of the Czech Republic

Partner
**Alternativ til Vold
Directorate of Norwegian
Correctional Services**

The project primarily addressed strengthening the system of Prison Service employee education in the areas focused, in particular, on the specificities of individual groups of convicts. One of the key tasks of the project was the creation and development of targeted and structured programmes of treating the risk groups of convicts and their gradual introduction into the penitentiary practice, as well as preventing the social exclusion of foreigners and information discrimination caused by the language barrier.

To acquire good practice at Norwegian prisons, four study visits of employees to the Ila and Ringerike prisons took place as part of the project. The visits were focused on sharing the experiences of the Czech and Norwegian Prison Services in treating and communicating with the convicts and on experiences with therapeutic programmes. Beyond the original project application, the project implementation team established a bilateral cooperation with the Alternativ til Vold (ATV) organisation. Three seminars with the topic *“Working with violent offenders”* were held. The trainers at these seminars included renowned employees of ATV, which has unique know-how to tackle aggressiveness. In addition, the course *“Working with an indebted client”*, which built upon the previous training *“Financial literacy and debt issues”*, was carried out.

Project website:

<http://vsqr.cz/o-nas/norske-fondy/pdp-3-gr-vs-cr/>

The Project in Numbers:

199

the area of two newly constructed specialized workshops (in m²)

103

the area of two new classrooms (in m²)

269

the remaining area of the education centre (in m²)

20

convicted men who successfully passed the *Joinery* course

20

convicted men who successfully passed the *Maintenance of public green* course

At least
100

persons/year the convicted men who will use the results of the project after it ends

Joiner's workshop in the new building in Nové Sedlo Prison.
Photo credit: Michal Ureš



Increasing the effectiveness of preparation of prisoners before release from Nové Sedlo Prison

Project promoter
Nové Sedlo Prison

The project, which was focused on increasing the capacity of spaces for the treatment of prisoners, consisted of the reconstruction of a former boiler-room and the creation of premises for an education centre, where certified retraining courses for convicts did and will continue to take place – specifically Joinery and Maintenance of public green. These courses should facilitate the return of convicts to the society and help them succeed in finding a job.

The convicts themselves participated in reconstructing the former boiler-room, thus having acquired experience in auxiliary construction work under technical supervision. The project also included the provision of required equipment for the newly reconstructed premises.

“In evaluating the project Streamlining the prisoners’ preparations before they are released from the Nové Sedlo Prison, we primarily have to avoid presenting success in its usual sense, as a life’s objective, to a young person. People should be evaluated just on the basis of what they give rather than on what they are able to gain. This should be our primary objective”, Peter Steňko, member of the implementation team – investment coordinator, said.

Project website:
<http://vs.cr.cz/o-nas/norske-fondy/pdp-4-nove-sedlo/>

The Project in Numbers:

87

convicted women who successfully passed education courses

At least
109

convicted women a year who will use the project results after its end

310

the total area of reconstructed premises (in m²)

102

the production area built (in m²)

122

the area of new premises for education activities (in m²)

23

employees of Norwegian and Czech female prisons who took part in the bilateral cooperation

Renovated building of former boiler house, where were created new rooms to employ and educate the sentenced women in Opava Prison.
Photo credit: Archive of Opava Prison

Increasing the effectiveness of women prisoners before release from Opava Prison

Project promoter
Opava Prison

Partner
Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services

As part of this project, a former coal-burning boiler-room was reconstructed, with new classrooms and premises for employing convicted women created there, including all the required equipment. After passing the courses **Labour law consulting and practising, Reinforcement of skills required to maintain a regular life after the release from sentence, Acquisition of financial literacy, and Improvement of labour market guidance after release**, the convicted women should acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them live regular lives after they are released.

In addition, courses of basic PC skills did and will continue to take place in a computer classroom.

Moreover, as part of a bilateral cooperation, the project made it possible to finance study visits for employees of the Czech and Norwegian Prison Services. The purpose was to share professional experience and good practice regarding female prisons.

“I enrolled in the programme to put my life in order and to learn something about debts, which I don’t have but, with this experience, I will be prepared, should I run into any. The course has taught me how to find a job even with my criminal record, how to write a curriculum vitae as well as a motivation letter. I’ve also learnt how to prepare a household budget and make both ends meet. I believe that the course can help people who strive to reintegrate themselves into the society”, one of the convicted women of the Opava Prison said.

Project website:
<http://vsocr.cz/o-nas/norske-fondy/pdp-5-opava/>

The Project in Numbers:



110 convicts successfully completed the courses

700 the total area of newly built premises (in m²)

140 the total area of newly built education premises (in m²)

105 the area of rooms for the practical teaching of gastronomy and catering (in m²)

35 ceramic workshop for leisure activities and a treatment programme (in m²)

217 the total area of a practical training workshop (in m²)

Construction of a production and educational hall for retraining courses for prisoners before their release in Příbram Prison

Project promoter
Příbram Prison

The objective of the project was to create suitable premises and conditions for convicts and for working with them, especially for the professional preparation of the convicts. The new hall, built as part of the project, includes premises for simple assembly work, classrooms for retraining courses, educational and instructional leisure activities of the convicts. The project also funded the complete equipment of these premises.

Moreover, the project included courses for convicts entitled Cooking work and simple service for restaurant-type facilities, and Basic operation of PC. Colonel Mgr. Jiří Purkart, Head of the Příbram Prison, commented on the project: **“By creating the conditions for the professional education of convicts at the Příbram Prison, we will enhance not only their professional opportunities but also the chance of their pro-social participation in their post-penitentiary lives because, as the major French writer Stendhal (whose real name was Henri Marie Beyle) said as long ago as in the 19th century: “The boat of life is tossed by all winds and storms unless encumbered with the load of work”.**

Project website:

<http://vs.cr.cz/o-nas/norske-fondy/pdp-6-pribram/>

The Project in Numbers:



20

young convicts who successfully passed the Painter and Bricklayer courses

32

young convicts who successfully passed the Instructional Programme

598

the total area of reconstructed premises (in m²)

51

the area of new premises for educational activities (in m²)

32

beds – capacity of the new department

Superstructure of the ground floor designed for the accommodation and education of the sentenced young adults at the age of 18-26 in Kuřim Prison.
Photo credit: Archív Kuřim Prison

Increase in the effectiveness of treatment of young adults 18 to 26 years of age in Kuřim Prison

Project promoter
Kuřim Prison

The project **“Streamlining the treatment of young adults at the age of 18-26 at the Kuřim Prison”** was primarily focused on building a lightweight single-storey superstructure on top of the existing ground-floor building, where premises to accommodate 32 juvenile convicts and premises for instructional activities were built.

The project aimed to separate juvenile prisoners from the groups of convicts who have committed multiple crimes, thus reducing the adverse impact of the prison environment and increasing the motivation to change the lifestyle. Last but not least the project had also the impact on the acquiring and developing working skills and habits. The convicts attended specialised Painter and Bricklayer courses. The young convicts were also involved in an instructional programme, composed of six activities. The second part of the project was focused on increasing the qualifications of employees, e.g. through social and psychological training or thematically focused courses.

“I am very pleased that, thanks to the option of absorbing the Norwegian Funds, we could carry out this unique project at our prison, which is another step to reduce the recidivism of convicts. We have European-standard conditions available for these activities with young convicts. I am confident that, in this modern and dignified environment, we will succeed in achieving our aims, and these convicts will no longer return to prisons,”
Colonel PhDr. Zuzana Kalivodová, Head of the Kuřim Prison, said.

Project website:
<http://vs.cr.cz/o-nas/norske-fondy/pdp-7-kurim/>

Supported Projects and Additional Activities





The courses Maintenance of public greenery were organized in the garden in Nové Sedlo Prison. Garlic was cultivated directly by the prisoners within the course. Photo credit: Michal Ureš

Explanatory notes

-  additional activities that expand on collaboration with partners from Norway
-  partner from Norway
-  partner from other foreign countries

Supported Projects and Additional Activities

Project title	Project promoter	Project partner(s)	Grant (CZK)
Implementing videoconferencing in the resort of justice	Ministry of Justice	-	48,903,693
Study visit to Norway – Exchange of Experience and Good Practise in Electronic Monitoring and Probation Houses	Ministry of Justice	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services ^{*)}	497,940
Multilateral seminar in Poland: “ECHR as integral part of judicial methodology – motivation of judgments”	Ministry of Justice	Norwegian National Courts Administration Council of Europe	16,960
Multilateral seminar in Romania: “ECHR as integral part of judicial methodology – motivation of judgment”	Ministry of Justice	Norwegian National Courts Administration Council of Europe	425,575
Study visit to Norway – deepening knowledge of the open prison system	Ministry of Justice	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	481,161
International conference – open prison (Straz pod Ralskem)	Ministry of Justice	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	302,372
A system of further education for employees of the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic	Probation and Mediation Service	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	8,885,528
The Project for Vulnerable Groups and Education of the Employees of the Prison Service	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services Alternativ til Vold	12,908,786
Increasing the effectiveness of preparation of prisoners before release from Nové Sedlo Prison	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	-	10,637,630

^{*)} Many of the norwegian prisons and correctional institutions fall under the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services. Some of them participated in the projects or bilateral activities within the Programme CZ15 (as you can see in the section Cooperation and partnership).

Supported Projects and Additional Activities

Project title	Project promoter	Project partner(s)	Grant (CZK)
Increasing the effectiveness of women prisoners before release from Opava Prison	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	11,908,304
Construction of a production and educational hall for retraining courses for prisoners before their release in Příbram Prison	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	-	11,167,206
Increase in the effectiveness of treatment of young adults 18 to 26 years of age in Kuřim Prison	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	-	11,167,364
Participation of the representatives of the predefined project at the programme CZ15 Cooperation Committee meeting in Oslo	Ministry of Finance	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	296,450
Justice and home affairs workshop – best practices and lessons learnt; communication, Bucharest, 15-17 March 2016	Ministry of Finance	Financial Mechanism Office	74,000
Bilateral cooperation between employees of Czech and Norwegian female prisons	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	932,985
Study visit within Norway and the Czech Republic – exchange of experience and sharing good practice in electronic monitoring	Probation and Mediation Service	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	1,115,438
Study visit to Norway – Exchange of Experience and Good Practice in Open Prison System	Ministry of Justice	Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services	414,000



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- 1 Training about using the videoconference set within the project Implementing video-conferencing in the resort of Justice.
Photo credit: Archive Ministry of Justice
- 2 Study trip of the employees of Czech women prisons to Norway organized within bilateral cooperation (within the project of Opava Prison).
Photo credit: Archive of the EU funds Unit, GD of the Prison Service.
- 3 Closing conference of the project System of Further Education of Employees of the Probation and Mediation Service.
Photo credit: Archive of the PMS CR
- 4 Study trip of the employees of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic to Norway. Photo credit: Archive PS of the CR

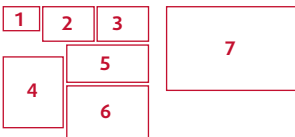






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- 1 Still unfinished construction of the new production and educational hall in Příbram Prison. Photo credit: Archive of Příbram Prison
- 2 Joiner's workroom in the new centre of theoretical and practical training in Nové Sedlo Prison. Photo credit: Michal Ureš
- 3 New production and educational hall in Příbram Prison. Photo credit: Michal Ureš
- 4 IT classroom newly equipped in Příbram Prison. Photo credit: Michal Ureš
- 5 Seminar Working with violent offenders was organized in cooperation with Alternativ til Vold. Photo credit: Archive of the GD of the Prison Service
- 6 Financial literacy course for social workers in one of the project of the Prison Service. Photo credit: Archive of the GD of the Prison Service
- 7 Engagement of inmates to working activities in Bastøy Prison, Norway. Photo credit: Archive of Bastøy Prison



Cooperation with Council of Europe – Programme Partner

“The Council of Europe acted as a donor partner that allowed us to work closely with the Czech and Norwegian partners for achieving the CZ 15 Programme goals. Openness and full engagement of the partners created an environment for smooth and efficient co-operation. Implementing of the projects are never seamless the dedication and commitment of the Ministry of Justice, Probation and Mediation Services, Prison Services of the Czech Republic and the Norwegian partners coupled with the thorough monitoring from the Ministry of Finance helped to overcome all the issued and led to successful implementation of the programme.

Implementation of the Judicial Capacity Building Co-operation programme and its pre-defined projects helped the Czech judicial authorities to address the increasing demands for modernization and e-justice through introduction of video-conferencing in court proceedings in order to improve the efficiency and quality of court services provided to the citizens. Czech Republic is already considered to be one of the 17 member states with the most advanced ICT availability and use for support and court management purposes in all courts and the implemented programme strengthened this position even further.

The work of the Correctional Services was equally important as it addressed the issues of raised in by the CPT in their last monitoring report of 2014 as material conditions and regime, detention of foreign nationals, conditions of detention in the prison establishments and availability of out-of-the-cell activities. Through the implementation of the 5 pre-defined projects in the framework of this programme, the Correctional Services increased the number of the programmes for the inmates to gain specific life-skills as well as certain trade-skills to be better prepared for the release; in parallel, the qualifications and skills of the prison staff was enhanced as the newly developed training and education programmes focused on increasing their professionalism.”

Sophio Gelashvili & Raluca Ivan
Council of Europe

Bilateral cooperation with the Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service

“Norway Grants is an important arena for the bilateral cooperation between Norway and the Czech Republic, and I am particularly pleased that Norway Grants have paved the way for a broad cooperation within the correctional service and the probation service between our two countries.

Over the past six years, we have enjoyed a highly constructive and satisfying cooperation that have contributed to the exchange of knowledge, competence, experience and building of networks between the prison and probation service of the Czech Republic and Norway.

Through the implementation of the projects, we have witnessed positive results that have contributed to overcome challenges connected with growing prison population, increased use of application of alternatives to prison, increased focus on vulnerable groups as well as an improvement of competence of both inmates and staff through different rehabilitation programs and staff training.

Norwegian project partners have been actively involved in the implementation of two of the projects within the correctional service and one project in cooperation with the Probation and Mediation Service. Akershus probation office reports on a highly constructive cooperation with the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic within

the project aimed at developing a system for further education for employees of the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic. Together with Ullersmo, Ringerike and Ila prison, the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service took part in the project aimed at increasing the competence of prison staff.

Bredtveit and Ravneberget female prison, Trøgstad and Bastøy as Agder probation office have been involved in projects financed by the bilateral fund. They report on a highly constructive cooperation that have contributed to the exchange of knowledge and competence.

With this programme coming to an in 2017, I want to congratulate you on the good results you achieved and the extensive work you have put down to improve the correctional service system. Let me finish by underlining that I am confident that the bilateral cooperation that has been established will continue to be mutually enriching in the future.”

Inger-Lise Becher & Kim Ekhaugen
Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service

Cooperation and partnership

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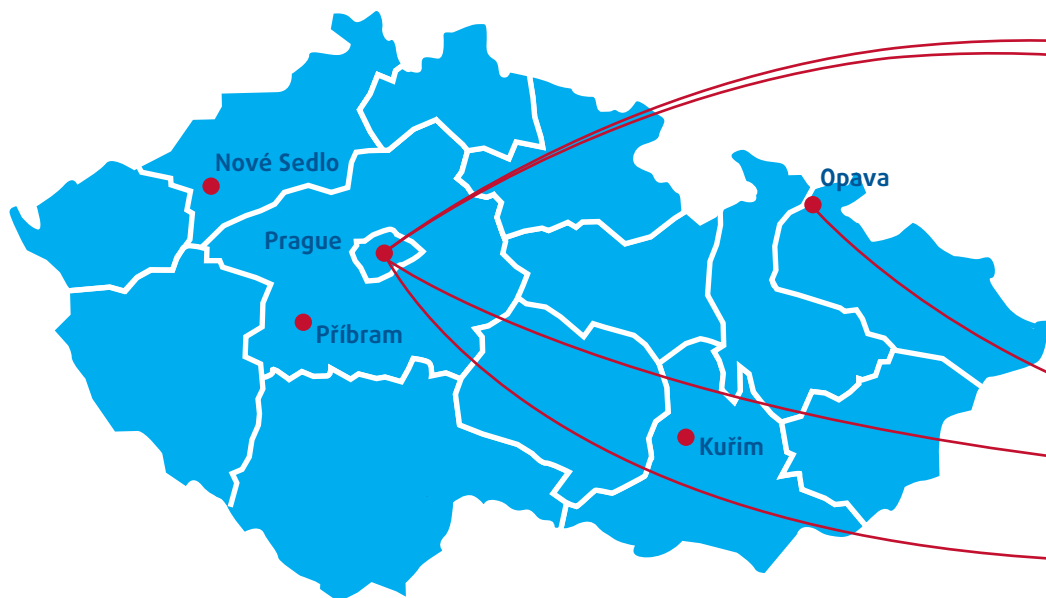
pre-defined projects implemented in cooperation with project partners from Norway

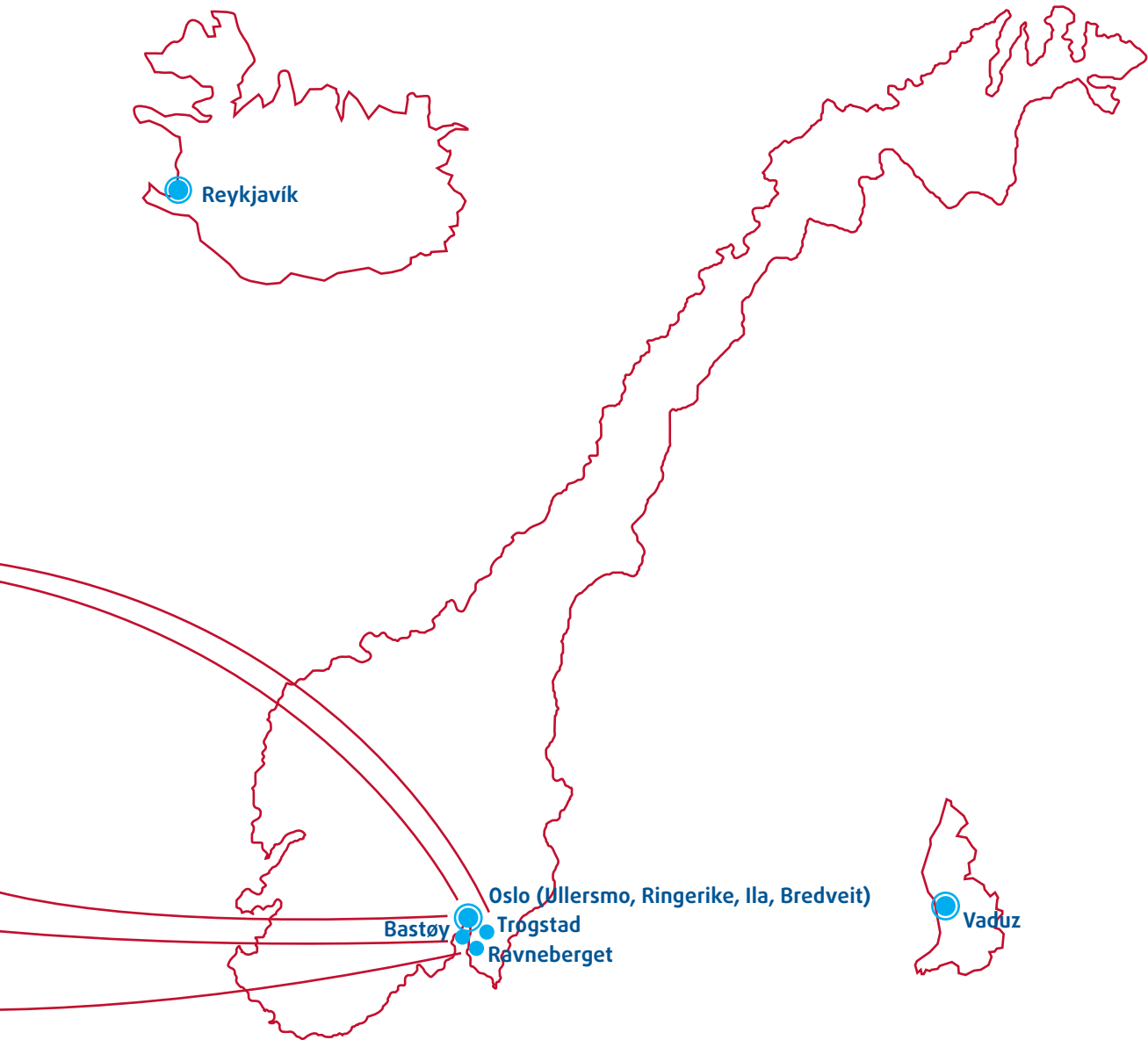
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partner institutions from donor countries

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inspiration





Reykjavík

Bastøy

Oslo (Ullersmo, Ringerike, Ila, Bredveit)

Trøgstad

Ravneberget

Vaduz

Paperwork that really works!

7 pre-defined projects

in total grant
amount of CZK

120 mil. implemented between 2014–2017

Contacts

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czp@mfcz.cz

Ministry of Justice – Programme Partner
<http://portal.justice.cz>

Council of Europe – Programme Partner – International Organisation
<http://www.coe.int/en/>

Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services
<http://www.kriminalomsorgen.no/>

September 2017

Frontpage picture:

Garden in Nové Sedlo Prison, that is used as an area for courses Maintenance of public greenery. Photo credit: Michal Ureš